

## ABSTRACT

2 A method is disclosed for representing road lanes as data in a database that can be  
3 used by a system in a vehicle to provide a safety-related function. Each data  
4 representation of a physical road lane includes data indicating start and end points of the  
5 represented lane and other data attributes pertaining to the represented lane, including  
6 data indicating what physical features are adjacent to the represented lane on right and  
7 left sides thereof and data indicating a geometry of the represented lane. Further, at least  
8 some of the data representations of lanes are associated with data representations of  
9 sublanes. Each data representation of a sublane includes data indicating start and end  
10 points thereof, defined relative to the lane of which the sublane is a part. A data  
11 representation of a sublane includes at least one data attribute associated therewith that  
12 pertains to the represented sublane and that is different than the same attribute of the lane  
13 of which the sublane is a part. The database is compatible with navigation-related  
14 applications that use a different data model to provide navigation-related functions.

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